

Comments on N2021-1

May 24, 2021

To the Postal Regulatory Commission:

I am not a Post office employee; I am an American who believes in the Postal Service. I am writing in opposition to the proposed changes to the Postal System that would further degrade service and standards.

I believe in Universal Service and the survival of a public agency the people of this country can rely on. The private sector is answerable to no one other than shareholders and can raise rates to any level it believes it can sustain. I know that USPS has been burdened by costs no other government agency carries in terms of pension obligations and an expectation that it make a profit as if it were indeed a private sector business.

It is true that the pandemic has worsened processing and delivery problems that already existed. I have experienced lost mail, returned mail, and delays in getting bills from my utilities, which I ascribe to the increasing use of temporary, non-union mail carriers. When it was the regular carrier five days a week, my mail arrived dependably. Further cuts to service will only worsen the situation.

I ask the PRC to study what would make the USPS viable once again reliable and efficient, by examining various and hybrid ways to pay for it. The Post Office was the first service defined in the Constitution. And I want their Post Office to survive. Congress can take up the issue of additional funding or **eliminating some of the ridiculously long future pension funding requirements.**

This proposed 10-year plan will create a death spiral. Declining service will mean declining use. While I personally may have options for paying bills, banking and other necessary communications, many people do not. If you approve this plan you should be honest enough to acknowledge that you are knowingly killing what is arguably our oldest Constitutional "original" public government agency.

Yours truly,

Cliff Hilliard